

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: UGT LEADER ENUNCIATES MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY. SPEAKING AT A PSOE-SPONSORED SEMINAR SERIES ON AUGUST 17, UGT SECRETARY GENERAL NICOLAS REDONDO DELIVERED A WIDE-RANGING POLICY STATEMENT. HE SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF SYNDICAL PLURALISM AND CLOSE UGT-PSOE COOPERATION, REFERRED TO "UNITY OF ACTION" DIFFICULTIES IN THE COS, CHARACTERIZED THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SWC AS NOT VIABLE IN
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A DEMOCRATIC SITUATION, AND REBUFFED THE IDEA OF ANY "SOCIAL

PACT". THE TONE OF REDONDO'S POLICY REVIEW TENDED TO BE MORE POLITICAL THAN TRADE UNION, AS HE PREDICTED AN HOT LABOR AUTUMN" IN THE CONTEXT OF A "HOT POLITICAL AUTUMN". END SUMMARY.

2. THE SPOTLIGHT FOCUSED ON UGT SECRETARY GENERAL NICOLAS REDONDO DURING THE SECOND DAY (AUGUST 17) OF THE PSOE-SPONSORED "SOCIALIST DAYS" SEMINARS AT EL ESCORIAL (MADRID 6309). IN A WIDE-RANGING POLICY STATEMENT, THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST TRADE UNION TOUCHED ON UGT STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES, UNITY OF ACTION, THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC), AND THE UN-ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY SO-CALLED "SOCIAL PACT". HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

3. REDONDO CHARACTERIZED THE UGT AS A "CLASS-CONSCIOUS, DEMOCRATIC, FREE, REVOLUTIONARY, AND INTERNATIONAL-MINDED UNION" WHOSE STRATEGY OVER THE PAST YEARS HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT THE DISMANTLING OF THE FRANCOIST SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION. HE SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF SYNDICAL PLURALISM, AND SAID THAT THE IDEA OF LABOR UNITY SOLELY FOR LABOR UNITY'S SAKE HAD NO MEANING. HE REJECTED AS UNSUITABLE FOR THE SPANISH SCENE, SUCH "UNIFIED" MOVEMENTS AS THE A) "REFORMIST" BRITISH TUC AND B) THE "BUREAUCRATIC" EASTERN EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WHERE "THE WORKERS ARE NOT ABLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY." THE UGT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TRADE UNION FREEDOM AND THE OPENING OF A "CONSTITUTENT PROCESS". INASMUCH AS BOTH THE PSOE AND THE UGT HAD THE SAME OBJECTIVES, REDONDO SAW NO INCOMPATIBILITY IN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO WORKING CLASS GROUPS.

4. THE UGT HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE FORMATION OF THE COORDINADORA OBRERA SINDICAL (COS) - THE NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" COORDINATION MECHANISM GROUPING THE UGT, USO, AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC). THIS WAS A "UNITARY PLATFORM" DEDICATED TO THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' INTERESTS, BUT NOT THE NUCLEUS OF ANY FUTURE UNIFIED LABOR ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THE SITUATION IN THE COS WAS "TENSE" DUE TO THE SWC'S ANTI-UGT CAMPAIGN.

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4. THE UGT LEADER ATTACKED THE POLITICAL LINE OF THE SWC AND DECLARED THAT THE "SOCIA-POLITICAL" SWC STRUCTURE WAS "NOT VIABLE IN A DEMOCRATIC SITUATION". EVEN THOUGH THE SWC MIGHT ATTEMPT TO TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO A TRADE UNION, HE ADDED, THERE WOULD BE "INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS AND STRUGGLES" BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE WORKERS FRONTS OF THE VARIOUS MEMBER POLITICAL ELEMENTS. REDONDO THEN ONCE AGAIN FIRMLY REJECTED THE SWC CALL FOR

A CONSTITUENT LABOR CONGRESS "WHICH WOULD IMPLY OUR DISSOLUTION". HE DENIED THAT THE SWC WAS THE PREPONDERANT LABOR FORCE OVERALL COMPARED TO THE UGT -- "IN SOME PLACES THEY ARE STRONGER, AND IN OTHERS WE ARE." HE FURTHER ASSERTED THAT THE UGT HAD BETTER PROSPECTS THAN ANY OF BECOMING "THE GREAT LABOR CENTER OF ALL SPANISH WORKERS", AS IT WAS IN 1936.

6. FINALLY, THE UGT SECRETARY GENERAL REBUFFED ANY IDEA OF A "SOCIAL PACT", ASKING "HOW CAN WE CONSIDER A SOCIAL PACT IN A NATION WHERE THERE ARE MASS LAY-OFFS. WHERE MILLIONS OF PESETAS ARE ESCAPING (PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO TAX EVASION AND OR CAPITAL FLIGHT BY THE FAT CATS), AND WHERE (ALLEGEDLY 22PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ENJOYS 80PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL INCOME? FOR FORTY YEARS EMPLOYERS HAVE NOT SPOKEN OF ANY SOCIAL PACT, AND NOW THEY DO WHEN THEY WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR INTERESTS."

7. COMMENT. REDONDO'S POLICY REVIEW STATEMENT BROKE NO NEW GROUND, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE EXPLICIT REJECTION OF ANY SOCIAL PACT CONCEPT. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE SOCIALIST AMBIANCE OF THE OCCASION, THE TONE OF REDONDO'S STATEMENT TENDED TO BE MORE POLITICAL THAN TRADE UNION AS HE REPORTEDLY SPOKE LOOSELY OF SUCH THINGS AS THE NEED TO ABOLISH PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE ANNIHILATION OF CAPITALISM. ALTHOUGH AGAIN PREDICTING A "HOT LABOR AUTUMN" IN THE CONTEXT OF A "HOT POLITICAL AUTUMN", HIS REFERENCE TO "TENSENESS" WITHIN THE COS IS AN INDICATION THAT SPAIN'S VARIOUS LABOR ELEMENTS MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PURSUE THEIR AVOWED "UNITY OF ACTION" GOALS COME THIS FALL (SEE MADRID 5651).

8. IN A MEETING WITH U.S. VISITORS VICTOR REUTHER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETIRED AMBASSADOR BEN STEPHANSKY LATER THE SAME DAY (REPORTED SEPT), REDONDO AMONG OTHER THINGS 1) CONFIRMED THE "NATURALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE UGT AND THE PSOE, AND 2) DEFENDED THE CURRENT POLITICAL NECESSITY OF "UNITY OF ACTION" EFFORTS WITH THE COMMUNISTS THROUGH THE COS MECHANISM. STABLER

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